IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A terminal device, comprising:

_____display means;

_____mediating means; and

_____authentication-information transmitting means~~,~~;

~~wherein~~ the display means ~~comprises~~having (i) a display function for displaying electronic information provided through a network so that a user can browse the information~~,~~, (ii) a specifying-information receiving function for receiving specifying information for specifying the mediating means~~,~~, and (iii) a specifying function for specifying the mediating means ~~by~~ using the received specifying information~~,~~;

the mediating means being operable to~~is specified by the specifying function and~~ starts the authentication-information transmitting means when specified by the specifying function~~,~~; and

the authentication-information transmitting means ~~is started by the mediating means and~~ being operable to transmits device-authentication information to an authentication server.

2.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

authentication-result receiving means for receiving an authentication result from the authentication server;

authentication-result transmitting means for transmitting the received authentication result to a providing server ~~for~~ operable to provid~~ing~~e electronic information; and

electronic-information receiving means for receiving electronic information transmitted from the providing server based on the transmitted authentication result.

3.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 2, wherein the mediating means ~~comprises~~has a using function for using the electronic information received from the providing server.

4.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 2, further comprising:

requesting means for sending a request~~ing~~ for electronic information to the providing server,

wherein the specifying-information receiving function receives specifying information ~~which is~~ transmitted

from the providing server based on the request for electronic information.

        5.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 1, wherein

        _____the specifying-information receiving function receives specifying information including access information used for accessing the authentication server, and

        the authentication-information transmitting means accesses the authentication server ~~by~~ using the received access information.

        6.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 5, wherein the authentication server ~~comprises~~includes a plurality of authentication servers, and the specifying-information receiving function receives specifying information including access information for each of the plurality of authentication servers ranked in an access precedence order.

        7.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 2, wherein

_____the specifying-information receiving function receives specifying information including access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the providing server, and

the authentication-result transmitting means accesses the providing server ~~by~~ using the received access information.

8.   (currently amended) A providing server for providing electronic information to ~~the~~a terminal device ~~according to Claim 2~~, the terminal device including display means, mediating means and authentication-information transmitting means, the providing server comprising:

specifying-information transmitting means for transmitting specifying information ~~used by~~to the display means of the terminal device for specifying the mediating means ~~which starts the authentication-information transmitting means~~;

authentication-result receiving means for receiving an authentication result from the terminal device; and

electronic-information transmitting means for transmitting electronic information to the terminal device based on the received authentication result.

9.   (currently amended) ~~An~~ method of using electronic- information ~~using method performed~~ in a computer

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~~comprising~~having display means~~,~~, mediating means~~,~~, and authentication-information transmitting means, the method comprising:

~~a display step of realizing, by the display means, a display function for~~ displaying electronic information provided through a network so that a user can browse the information~~;~~; ~~a specifying information receiving function for~~

_____receiving specifying information for specifying the mediating means~~;~~; ~~and a specifying function for specifying the mediating means by using the received specifying information;~~

~~a mediating step of~~ specifying the mediating means ~~by the specifying function in the display step and allowing the mediating means to~~using the received specifying information;

_____start_ing_ the authentication-information transmitting means when the mediating means is specified; and

~~an authentication information transmitting step of~~transmitting device-authentication information to an authentication server ~~by starting~~when the authentication-information transmitting means ~~in the mediating step~~is started.

10.   (currently amended) A~~n~_ method of providing electronic__ information ~~providing method used in~~from a providing

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server ~~for providing electronic information~~ to ~~the~~a terminal

device ~~according to Claim 2~~,

        ~~wherein~~ the providing server ~~comprises~~including

specifying-information transmitting means~~,~~, authentication-

result receiving means~~,~~, and electronic-information transmitting

means~~,~~; and the terminal device including display means,

mediating means, and authentication-information transmitting

means,

        the ~~electronic information providing~~ method

comprise~~s~~ing:

        ~~a specifying information transmitting step~~

~~of~~transmitting~~, by the specifying-information transmitting~~

~~means,~~ specifying information ~~used by the display means of the~~

~~terminal device~~for specifying the mediating means ~~for~~from the

specifying-information transmitting means to the display means

of the terminal device, the mediating means using the specifying

information to start~~ing~~ the authentication-information

transmitting means;

        ~~an authentication-result receiving step of~~

receiving~~,~~ ~~by~~in the authentication-result receiving means~~,~~ an

authentication result sent from the terminal device; and

        ~~an electronic information transmitting step~~

~~of~~transmitting~~, by~~ electronic information from the electronic-

information transmitting means~~, electronic information~~ to the

terminal device based on the received authentication result.

11.   (cancelled)

12.   (cancelled)

13.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~storing~~recorded with a ~~terminal device~~ program for ~~realizing, in~~causing a computer~~,~~ to execute a method of processing information, the computer being operable to perform a display function, a mediating function and an authentication-information transmitting function, the method comprising:

~~a display function a mediating function; and an authentication-information transmitting function,~~

~~wherein the display function comprises a display function for~~ displaying electronic information provided through a network so that a user can browse the information; ~~a specifying information receiving function for~~

_____receiving specifying information for specifying the mediating function; ~~and a specifying function for~~

_____specifying the mediating function ~~by~~ using the received specifying information~~,~~;

~~the mediating function is specified by the specifying function and~~ start~~s~~ing the authentication-information transmitting function~~,~~ when the mediating function is specified; and

~~the authentication information transmitting function is started by the mediating function and~~ transmit~~s~~ting device-authentication information to an authentication server when the authentication-information transmitting function is started.

14.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~storing~~recorded with a ~~providing server~~ program for causing a computer to execute a method of providing electronic information to ~~the~~a terminal device ~~according to Claim 2~~, the terminal device being operable to perform a display function, a mediating function and an authorization-information transmitting function, the method comprising:~~program realizes, in a computer:~~

~~a specifying information transmitting function for~~ transmitting specifying information to the terminal device, the specifying information being used by the display function of the terminal device for specifying the mediating function, ~~which~~and the mediating function start~~s~~ing the authentication-information transmitting function when the mediating function is specified;

~~an authentication result receiving function for~~ receiving an authentication result from the terminal device; and

~~an electronic information transmitting function for~~ transmitting electronic information to the terminal device based on the received authentication result.

15.   (currently amended) A terminal device, comprising:

_____ information communication means;

_____ electronic-information using means; and

_____authentication-information management means~;~

~wherein~the information communication means ~comprises~having (i) a function for receiving authentication-trigger information required for using electronic information provided through a network~,~ (ii) a function for analyzing specifying information for specifying the electronic-information using means based on the authentication-trigger information~,~ and (iii) a specifying function for specifying the electronic-information using means based on the specifying information~;~

the electronic-information using means being operable to~is specified by the specifying function and~ starts the authentication-information management means~ when specified by the specifying function; and

the authentication-information management means ~is started by the electronic-information using means,~ being operable to reads device-authentication information, and to transmits the device-authentication information to an authentication server.

16. (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 15, wherein

~~wherein~~ the authentication-information management means receives an authentication result from the authentication server,

the electronic-information using means transmits the authentication result to a providing server ~~which~~operable to ~~provides~~ electronic information, and

the information communication means receives electronic information transmitted from the providing server based on the transmitted authentication result.

17. (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 16, wherein the electronic-information using means ~~comprises~~has a using function for using the electronic information received from the providing server.

18. (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 17, wherein the electronic-information using means ~~allows~~is operable to enable a user to browse electronic information, to ~~plays~~ back electronic information as music content, or to ~~plays~~ back electronic information as moving-picture content.

19.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 15, wherein the authentication-trigger information includes authentication-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the authentication server.

20.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 19, wherein the authentication server includes a plurality of authentication servers, and the authentication-trigger information includes authentication-server access information for each of the plurality of authentication servers ranked in an access precedence order.

21.   (currently amended) A terminal device according to Claim 16, wherein

_____ the authentication-trigger information includes providing-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the providing server, and

_____ the authentication result is transmitted to the providing server ~~by~~ using the providing-server access information.

22.   (currently amended) A providing server for providing electronic information requiring authentication to a terminal device, the providing server comprising:

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authentication-trigger-information transmitting means for transmitting, to the terminal device, authentication-trigger information including specifying information for specifying electronic-information using means ~~which starts authentication-information management means~~;

authentication-result receiving means for receiving~~, from the terminal device,~~ an authentication result ~~of~~from the terminal device ~~generated in an authentication server~~; and

electronic-information providing means for providing electronic information to the terminal device based on the received authentication result.

23.   (currently amended) ~~An~~method of using electronic- information ~~using method performed~~in a terminal device ~~comprising~~having information communication means~~,~~, electronic-information using means~~,~~, and authentication-information management means, the method comprising:

~~an information communication step of processing, by the information communication means, a function for~~receiving authentication-trigger information required for using electronic information provided through a network~~,~~; ~~a function for~~

_____ analyzing specifying information for specifying the electronic-information using means based on the
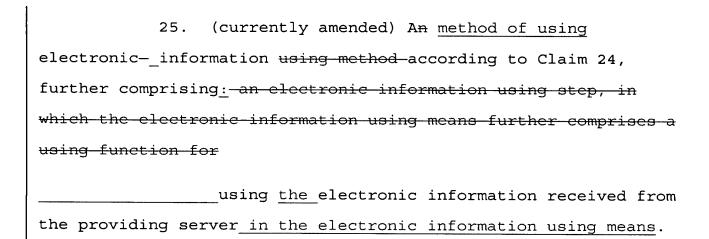
authentication-trigger information~;~ and a specifying function for

_____specifying the electronic-information using means based on the specifying information;

a starting step of starting the authentication-information management means by beingwhen specified by the specifying function in the information communication step; and

an authentication information management step of starting the authentication information management means in the starting step, reading device-authentication information~ and transmitting the device-authentication information to an authentication server.

24.   (currently amended) An method of using electronic- information using method according to Claim 23, further comprising:

wherein, in the authentication-information management step, receiving in the authentication-information management means receives an authentication result from the authentication server; and

_____transmitsting the authentication result from the authentication-information management means to a providing server for providing electronic information~; and

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~~the information communication step comprises an
electronic information receiving step, in which~~receiving in the
information communication means ~~receives~~ electronic information
transmitted from the providing server based on the
authentication result.

25.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of using
electronic- information ~~using method~~ according to Claim 24,
further comprising:~~an electronic information using step, in
which the electronic information using means further comprises a
using function for~~

_____using the electronic information received from
the providing server in the electronic information using means.

26.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of using
electronic- information ~~using method~~ according to Claim 25,
wherein the electronic-information using means is operable to
enable~~allows~~ a user to browse the electronic information, to
play~~s~~ back electronic information as music content, or to play~~s~~
back electronic information as moving-picture content.

27.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of using
electronic- information ~~using method~~ according to Claim 23,
wherein the authentication-trigger information includes

authentication-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the authentication server.

          28.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of using electronic- information ~~using method~~ according to Claim 27, wherein the authentication server includes a plurality of authentication servers, and the authentication-trigger information includes authentication-server access information for each of the plurality of authentication servers ranked in an access precedence order.

          29.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of using electronic- information ~~using method~~ according to Claim 24, wherein

_____ the authentication-trigger information includes providing-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the providing server, and~~, in the authentication-information management step,~~ the step of transmitting the authentication result ~~is~~includes transmitt~~ed~~ing the authentication result from the authentication-information management means to the providing server~~ by~~ using the providing-server access information.

          30.   (currently amended) A~~n~~ method of providing electronic- information ~~providing method performed in a~~

~~providing server for providing electronic information~~ requiring authentication <u>from a providing server</u> to a terminal device, the method comprising:

~~an authentication trigger information transmitting step of~~ transmitting~~,~~ <u>from the providing server</u> to the terminal device~~,~~ authentication-trigger information including specifying information for specifying electronic-information using means ~~for starting authentication-information management means~~;

~~an authentication result receiving step of~~ receiving~~,~~ from the terminal device~~,~~ an authentication result ~~of~~<u>for</u> the <u>terminal</u> device ~~generated in an authentication server~~; and

~~an electronic information providing step of~~ providing electronic information <u>to the terminal device</u> based on the received authentication result.

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31.   (currently amended) A <u>recording medium recorded</u> <u>with a</u> ~~terminal device~~ program <u>for causing a computer to execute</u> <u>a method of processing information, the computer being operable</u> <u>to perform an information communication function, an electronic-</u> <u>information using function, and an authentication-information</u> <u>management function, the method</u> comprising<u>:</u>

~~an information communication function; an electronic information using function; and an authentication information management function,~~

~~wherein~~ pursuant to the information communication function, ~~comprises a function for~~ (i) receiving authentication-trigger information required for using electronic information provided through a network, ~~a function for~~ (ii) analyzing specifying information for specifying the electronic-information using ~~means~~ function based on the authentication-trigger information, and (iii) ~~a specifying function for~~ specifying the electronic- information using ~~means~~ function based on the specifying information~~,~~;

pursuant to the electronic-information using ~~means is specified by the specifying function and~~ function, start~~s~~ing the authentication-information management ~~means,~~ function; and

pursuant to the authentication-information management ~~means is started by the electronic-information using means,~~ function, read~~s~~ing device-authentication information~~,~~ and transmit~~s~~ting the device-authentication information to an authentication server.

32.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device program~~ recording medium according to Claim 31, wherein the

~~following functions are realized in a computer~~information processing method further comprises:

~~an authentication result receiving function for~~ receiving an authentication result from the authentication server;

~~an authentication result transmitting function for~~ transmitting the received authentication result to a providing server for providing electronic information; and

~~an electronic information receiving function for~~ receiving electronic information transmitted from the providing server based on the transmitted authentication result.

33.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device program~~recording medium according to Claim 31, wherein the information processing method further comprises, pursuant to the electronic-information using function, ~~comprises a using function for~~ using the electronic information received from the providing server.

34.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device program~~recording medium according to Claim 33, wherein the information processing method further comprises, pursuant to the electronic-information using function, ~~allows~~enabling a user to browse the electronic information, play~~s~~ing back electronic

information as music content, or ~~plays~~ing back electronic

information as moving-picture content.

35.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device~~ ~~program~~recording medium according to Claim 31, wherein the authentication-trigger information includes authentication-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the authentication server.

36.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device program~~ recording medium according to Claim 31, wherein the authentication server ~~comprises~~includes a plurality of authentication servers, and the authentication-trigger information includes authentication-server access information for each of the plurality of authentication servers ranked in an access precedence order.

37.   (currently amended) A ~~terminal device~~ ~~program~~recording medium according to Claim 32, wherein the authentication-trigger information includes providing-server access information used ~~for~~to access~~ing~~ the providing server, and the step of transmitting the authentication result includes~~is~~ transmitt~~ed~~ing the authentication result to the

providing server ~~by~~ using the providing-server access
information.

38.   (currently amended) A <u>recording medium recorded</u>
<u>with</u> a ~~providing server~~ program <u>for causing a computer to</u>
<u>execute a method of</u>~~performed in a providing server for~~ providing
electronic information requiring authentication <u>from a providing</u>
<u>server</u> to a terminal device, ~~wherein the following functions are~~
~~realized in a computer~~<u>the method comprising</u>:

~~an authentication-trigger information~~
~~transmitting function for~~ transmitting<u>,</u> <u>from the providing</u>
<u>server</u> to the terminal device<u>,</u> authentication-trigger
information including specifying information for specifying
electronic-information using means~~for starting authentication~~
~~information management means~~;

~~an authentication-result receiving function for~~
receiving<u>,</u> from the terminal device<u>,</u> an authentication result ~~of~~
<u>for</u> the <u>terminal</u> device~~generated in an authentication server~~;
and

~~an electronic-information providing function for~~ providing
electronic information <u>to the terminal device</u> based on the
received authentication result.